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TITLE: RECYCLING OF POLYURETHANE FOAM

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ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for recycling a polyurethane foam by adding an azole compound to the crushed product of the polyurethane foam and subsequently thermally decomposing the polyurethane foam to produce a polyol component as a decomposition product, capable of recovering the polyol component useful as a reaction component for producing the polyurethane foam as the decomposition treatment product.

SOLUTION: This method for recycling a polyurethane foam comprises adding an azole compound (preferably a triazole compound such as 3-amino-1,2,4-triazole or benzotriazole) as a decomposing agent to the crushed polyurethane foam

(preferably having a particle diameter of 5-15 mm) and subsequently thermally decomposing the polyurethane foam to produce a polyol component as a decomposition product. The azole compound is preferably used in an amount of 0.1-1.0 wt.%, and the thermal decomposition treatment is carried out, for example, in a reactor with a heating oven, an autoclave reactor, a heating kneader type reactor, an extrusion type reactor, etc., generally at 180-200°C for 5-20 min.

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